



Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Advanced Systems & Concepts

SUCCESS STORY

FCT's Mobi-Mat Supports Top Defense Leadership



Secretary of Defense Robert Gates is joined by General Petraeus, then-commander of Multinational Forces-Iraq, and LTG Chiarelli, commander of Multinational Corps-Iraq, after landing on Mobi-Mat, a product of AS&C's Foreign Comparative Testing program

When Secretary of Defense Robert Gates landed in Camp Fallujah, Iraq, a year ago, his helicopter set down on Mobi-Mat. It is another example of U.S. forces' widespread use of this light-weight matting system—not only in Iraq, but around the globe.

Mobi-Mat is a French-made, tri-dimensional polyester sheeting, used to aid vehicle operations over ground areas, where trafficability would otherwise be a problem. It was successfully tested in the Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) program in 2002 for the Marines, who subsequently deployed it to Afghanistan and Iraq for fast set up of helicopter landing areas. Since then, the Army and U.S. Special Operations have procured it, with buys totaling \$22 million. Its use in desert areas has also helped reduce brown outs—clouds of dust and dirt that are stirred up during takeoffs and landings—which have been attributed to helicopter accidents.

Mobi-Mat also has been used in other places. When U.S. Marines landed in Chile to work with their Chilean counterparts in the Partnership of the Americas deployment, their vehicles came across sandy beaches using MobiMat (pictured right).



As a follow-up to the success of the Mobi-Mat project, the Navy is currently testing and evaluating a light-weight matting system to support the deployment of V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft. The new type of lightweight matting is designed to accommodate high heat signature generated from the V-22's low-hanging engine nacelles.

For more information on the FCT program, visit <http://www.acq.osd.mil/cto/>.